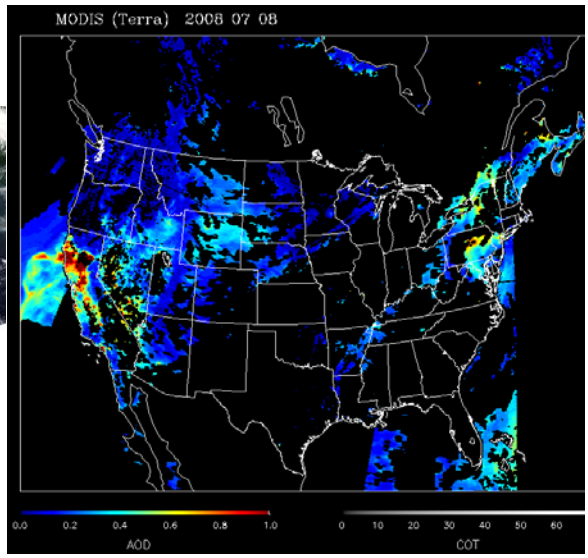
Attachment B

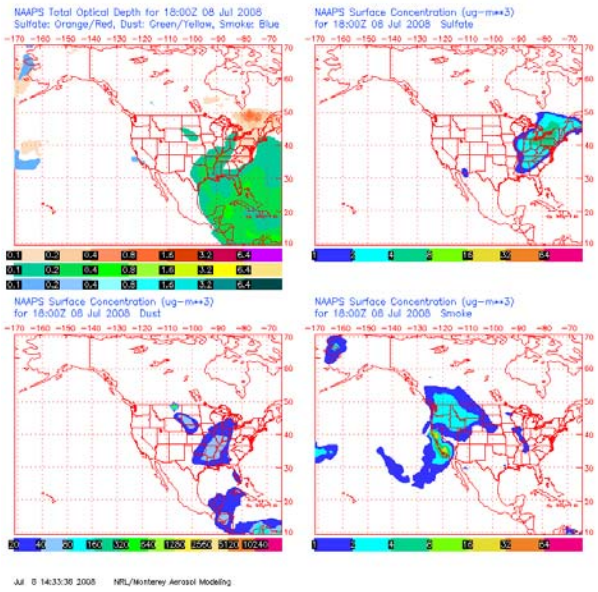
News Articles:

July 8, 2008

A LITTLE OF EVERYTHING FOR EARLY JULY

Dense smoke remains over the Northwest (left image; UW MODIS Today) and continues to drift over the Pacific. AOD (right image; source: NOAA-UMBC GASP IDEA) is unity over most of California. Particulate matter monitors (**EPA AIRNow**) in California are recording primarily code orange (unhealthy for sensitive groups; 40.5 < PM2.5-ug/m3 < 65.4) air quality. Smoke from California fires (transport from Russian and Canadian fires is a possibility as well) is likely impacting other states in the Northwest. Look carefully at the map below (right image) and you will see that the AOD is elevated over Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, and Nevada. The AOD is also high over the Northeast, Southeast, and MidAtlantic Region. The NRL NAAPS product (bottom image) suggests the likely aerosol speciation across the country. **Dust** may still be impacting local air quality near the surface across most of the Eastern half of the nation. However, sulfates are probably the dominant contributor to fine particulate matter (PM2.5).





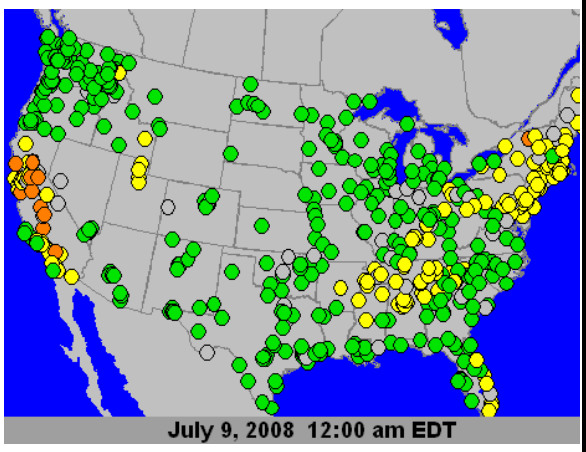
Posted by Nikisa Jordan at **8:21 PM** | **Comments (0)** | **TrackBack**

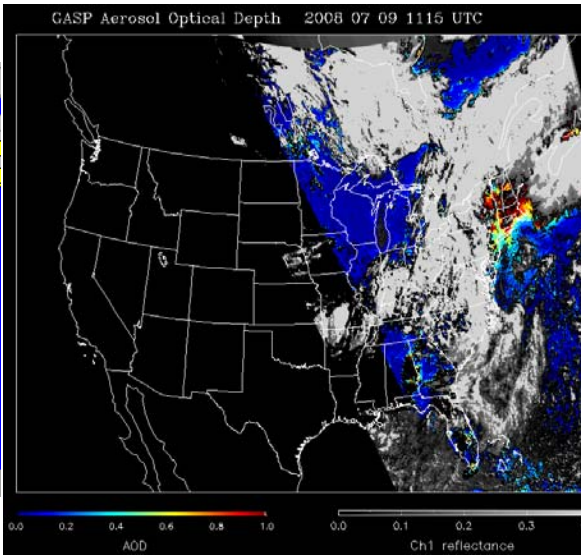
Image (or graphic) obtained from the U.S. Air Quality Smog Blog (http://alg.umbc.edu/usaq)

July 9, 2008

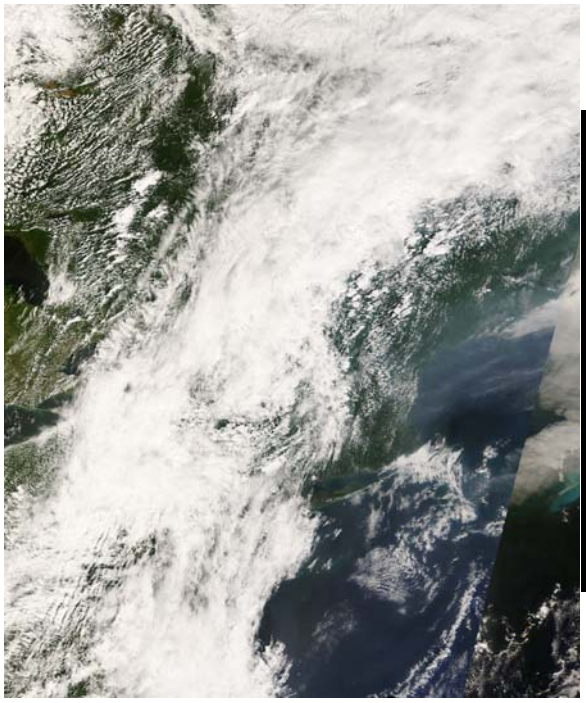
FIRES CONTINUE IN CALIFORNIA, HAZE AND SMOKE IN COASTAL NEW ENGLAND AND UPPER MIDWEST

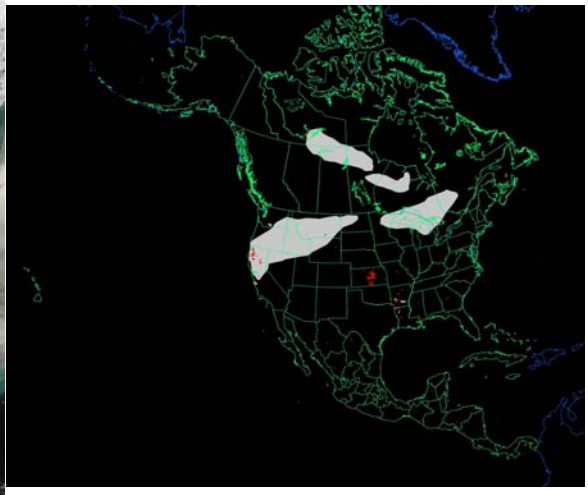
The National Interagency Fire Center reports that California continues to have heavy fire activity while activity in the rest of the country is relatively light, with the exception of large fires in Texas, Oklahoma, and Utah. AIRNow reported PM2.5 levels in California as Orange (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) and Red (Unhealthy) between Sacramento and Chico, as shown below on the left. Stepping back to view the continental U.S., the GASP satellite recorded elevated AOD indicating high levels of particles in New England and parts of the Southeast, in addition to California (below right).





Taking a closer look at New England, today's Terra image shows a mixture of haze and smoke streaming out over the Atlantic Ocean in coastal New England. In addition, the Hazard Mapping System (below right) identified a large swath of light smoke and haze covering portions of the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Wisconsin (below right).





Update: The Terra image of California is a dramatic portrayal of wildfire smoke.

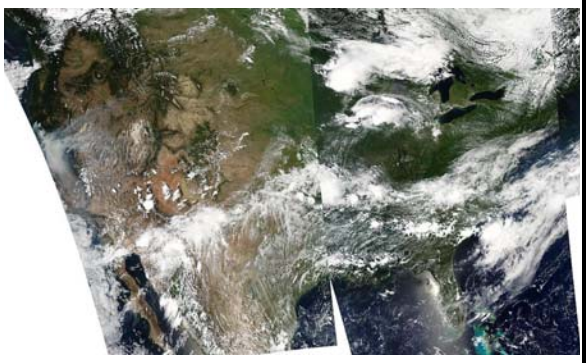
Posted by Erica Zell at **6:34 PM** | **Comments (0)** | **TrackBack**

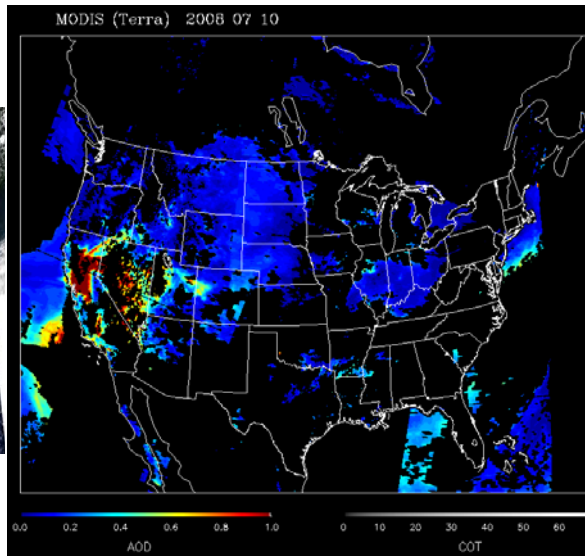
Image (or graphic) obtained from the U.S. Air Quality Smog Blog (http://alg.umbc.edu/usaq)

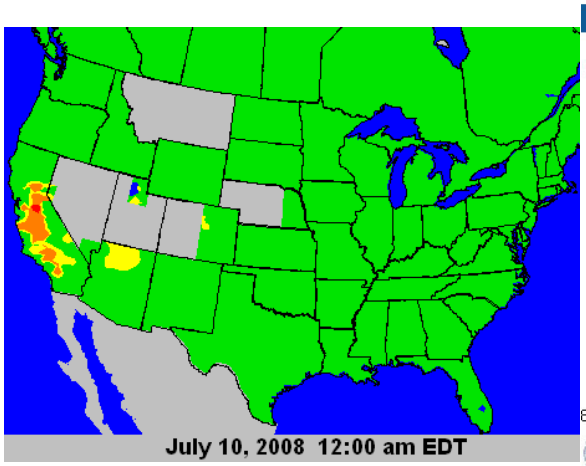
July 10, 2008

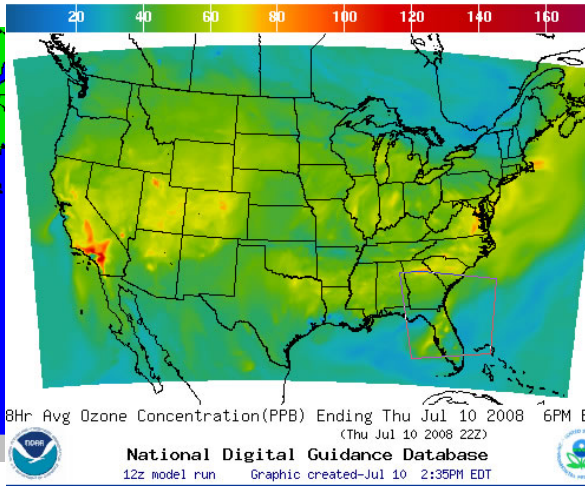
IMPROVEMENTS ON THE EAST BUT POOR AQ IN THE WEST

Smoke from Canadian (and/or Russian) fires has likely moved over the Northeast and is lingering over the Atlantic (see left image; UW MODIS Today). Particulate sulfates and nitrates (PM2.5) from local sources are probably primarily contributing to the high AOD (right; NOAA-UMBC GASP IDEA) in this region. **Air quality** near the surface has improved over most of the Midwest and East, but remains very unhealthy (PM2.5-ug/m3 > 40.5) in California. Tropospheric ozone is elevated as well. Refer to the maps provided by EPA AIRNow (left) and NOAA NWS (right). The **HMS map** is very helpful in displaying fire occurrences and the distribution of smoke. Moderate AQI in Florida is probably due to Saharan dust along with the usual sulfates and nitrates.









Posted by Nikisa Jordan at **8:27 PM** | **Comments (0)** | **TrackBack**

Image (or graphic) obtained from the U.S. Air Quality Smog Blog (http://alg.umbc.edu/usaq)